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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2131

AF 2131
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/653,227
Filed: August 31, 2000
Inventors:
Traversat, et al.

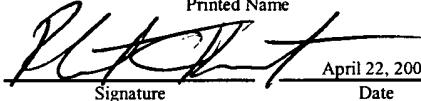
Title: MESSAGE
AUTHENTICATION
USING MESSAGE GATES
IN A DISTRIBUTED
COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT

§ Examiner: Chen, Shin Hon
§ Group/Art Unit: 2131
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-64800

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Printed Name


Signature

April 22, 2005
Date

**RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF
MARCH 8, 2005**

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of March 8, 2005, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.